

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name BUILDING AT 235 NORTH GAY STREET (preferred)
other names/site number Spartana Electronics

2. Location

street & number 235 North Gay Street N/A ☐ not for publication
city, town Baltimore N/A ☐ vicinity
state Maryland code MD county Independent City code 510 zip code 21202

3. Classification

Ownership of Property

☒ private
☐ public-local
☐ public-State
☐ public-Federal

Category of Property

☒ building(s)
☐ district
☐ site
☐ structure
☐ object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> buildings
	<u>0</u> sites
	<u>0</u> structures
	<u>0</u> objects
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing:

Cast Iron Architecture of Baltimore,
Maryland 1850-1904

Number of contributing resources previously
listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this
☒ nomination ☐ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the
National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.
In my opinion, the property ☒ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. ☐ See continuation sheet.

Signature of certifying official [Signature] STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER

Date 8/31/94

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. ☐ See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

- ☐ entered in the National Register.
☐ See continuation sheet.
- ☐ determined eligible for the National
Register. ☐ See continuation sheet.
- ☐ determined not eligible for the
National Register.
- ☐ removed from the National Register.
- ☐ other, (explain:)

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

6. Function or Use

B-4293

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

INDUSTRY/PROCESSING/EXTRACTION/
manufacturing facilityCOMMERCE/TRADE/business**7. Description**

Architectural Classification

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

(enter categories from instructions)

foundation Brickwalls IronBrickroof Asphaltother WoodITALIANATE

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

DESCRIPTION SUMMARY:

The building at ²³⁹~~235~~ North Gay Street is located on the southwest corner of North Gay and Front Streets. Built around 1875, the building is a tall three-story iron front structure.

8. Statement of Significance

B-4293

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

☐ nationally ☐ statewide ☒ locallyApplicable National Register Criteria ☐ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ DCriteria Considerations (Exceptions) ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

c. 1875

Significant Dates

c. 1875

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

THEME:

Cast Iron Architecture in Baltimore, Maryland, 1850-1904

SIGNIFICANCE SUMMARY:

The building at ²³⁹~~235~~ North Gay Street is significant as representing a Full Cast Iron Front and Major Exterior Cast Iron Detailing type building.

☒ See continuation sheet no. 4 for
Historic Context & Maryland
Comprehensive Historic Preservation
Plan data

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- ☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- ☐ previously listed in the National Register
- ☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register
- ☐ designated a National Historic Landmark
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

☒ See continuation sheet no. 5

Primary location of additional data:

- ☐ State historic preservation office
- ☐ Other State agency
- ☐ Federal agency
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ University
- ☐ Other

Specify repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

creage of property Less than 1 acreUSGS Quad: Baltimore East, Maryland

UTM References

A 18 361390 4350410
Zone Easting Northing

C

B
Zone Easting Northing

D

☐ See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

Boundaries are defined as a single city lot, specifically identified as Block 1306C, Lot 20, recorded among the Land Records of Baltimore City, Maryland.

☐ See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The nominated property comprises the city lot upon which the resource stands.

☐ See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Peter E. Kurtze, Architectural Historian

organization for Baltimore Heritage, Inc. date May 14, 1990

street & number 109 Brandon Road telephone (410) 296-7538

city or town Baltimore state MD zip code 21212

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetBUILDING AT ²³⁹235 NORTH GAY STREET
Baltimore
MarylandSection number 7 Page 1GENERAL DESCRIPTION:

²³⁹The principal facade of ~~235~~ North Gay Street was altered at street level by the construction of a modern facade of Carrara glass, metallic panels, and display windows, uniting this building with the adjacent structure. Some of the original cast iron framing elements may remain in place behind this modern screen. The upper stories of the building remain essentially unaltered, displaying a three-bay cast-iron facade which wraps around the north corner of the building (Front Street elevation) a distance of one bay. Large window openings are flanked by Corinthian columns and headed by segmental arches. The windows are set deeply within the openings; the edge of the spandrels between the arches is decorated with a continuous molded band. Solid panels have been installed over the double-hung sash. Between the second and third floor levels, an intermediary cornice comprising crown molding above a dentil course runs between consoles decorated with heraldic shields. Piers at the corners of the facade are decorated with recessed panels. The building cornice has a deep overhang, supported on large curvilinear brackets with stylized modillions; the cornice returns at the north corner, and continues completely across the Front Street elevation. The Front Street facade is six bays wide, constructed of brick laid in common bond. The northern half of the street level has been altered, with infill and small glass-block windows. A secondary entrance remains in the south bay, and a small window is located in the second bay from the south on the street level; these openings are topped with brick segmental arches. On the second and third stories, the cast-iron structure and detailing is repeated in the westernmost bay; the remaining bays are defined by tall 2/2 sash windows with segmental-arched heads, decorated with heavy molded hoods of cast iron. The rear elevation is two bays wide, with infilled openings at each level, and a corbeled brick cornice. The interior is now connected with the neighboring building at 233 North Gay Street.

²³⁹The decorative detailing of the iron front at ~~235~~ North Gay Street is similar to that of 121 North Howard Street, and to that of the Fava Fruit Company Building, which stood in the 200 block of South Charles Street until it was dismantled in 1976. Similar elements include the building cornice, Corinthian columns, side piers, and heraldic shield motif. It is likely that these

See Continuation Sheet No. 2

B-4293

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

BUILDING AT ²³⁹~~235~~ NORTH GAY STREET
Baltimore
Maryland

Section number 7 Page 2

structures were the products of the same local works, although it is impossible at this time to determine which of the seven Baltimore foundries which manufactured building facades during the period may have been responsible.

B-4293

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

BUILDING AT ²³⁹~~235~~ NORTH GAY STREET
Baltimore
Maryland

Section number 8 Page 3

HISTORIC CONTEXT:

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA

Geographic Organization: Piedmont

Chronological/Developmental Period(s):

Industrial/Urban Dominance A.D. 1870-1930
Modern Period A.D. 1930-Present

Prehistoric/Historic Period Theme(s):

Architecture/Landscape Architecture/Community Planning
Economic (Commercial and Industrial)

Resource Type:

Category: Building

Historic Environment: Urban

Historic Function(s) and Use(s):

INDUSTRY/PROCESSING/EXTRACTION/manufacturing facility

Known Design Source: None

B-4293

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

BUILDING AT ²³⁹~~235~~ NORTH GAY STREET
Baltimore
Maryland

Section number 8 Page 4

HISTORY & SUPPORT:

The extensive alteration of the street pattern and numbering system occasioned by the construction of the Fallsway in 1912, and the more recent development of the Jones Falls Expressway, complicates historical research in this area of Baltimore. 235 North Gay Street achieved its present configuration about 1875. The 1880 Sanborn map shows an iron front store, 3 stories, 50' high, at this location. In 1896, Emanuel Schloss was assessed for a 3 story iron front building; M. Rosenblatt, clothier, was listed as tenant.

In 1974, the property was purchased by Anthony R. Spartana (RHB 3180/321); Spartana had founded an electronic supplies business in 1925.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

B-4293

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

BUILDING AT ²³⁹~~235~~ NORTH GAY STREET
Baltimore
Maryland

Section number 9 Page 5

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHIC REFERENCES:

Baltimore City Directories, 1870s-1940s

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties, Baltimore City, Maryland
Historical Trust, Crownsville, Maryland.

Sun, June 16, 1988 (Obituary, Anthony R. Spartana).

239
235 North Gay St
B-4293
Baltimore
Maryland

17'30"

18/361390/4350410

39°15'

76°37'30"

Mapped by the Army Map Service

Published by the Geological Survey

BROOKLYN 1.1 MI.
GLEN BURNIE 6.1 MI.

910 000 FEET

362

363

520 000
FEET

MIDDLE
BRANCH

MANOVER STREET BRIDGE

Light

Maryland Yacht Club

Broening Park

Woodson Sch

Cherry Hill

Dr High Sch

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B-4293



B-4293

239

~~235~~ North Gay Street
Baltimore, Maryland

7 August 1994

neg: MDSHPO

photo: Ron Andrews

NE elevations

1/2

B-4293

239

~~235~~ North Gay Street
Baltimore Maryland

7 August 1994

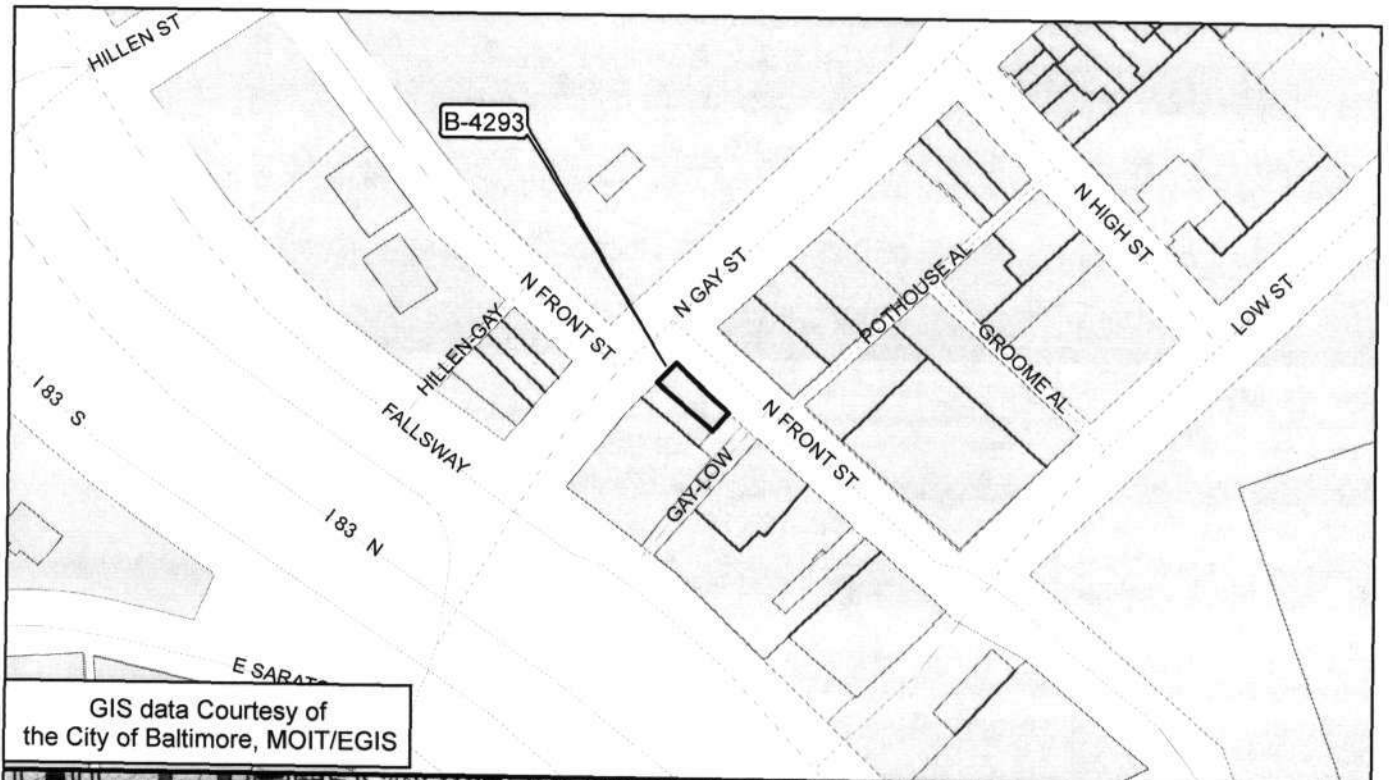
photo: Ron Andrews

neg: MDSHPO

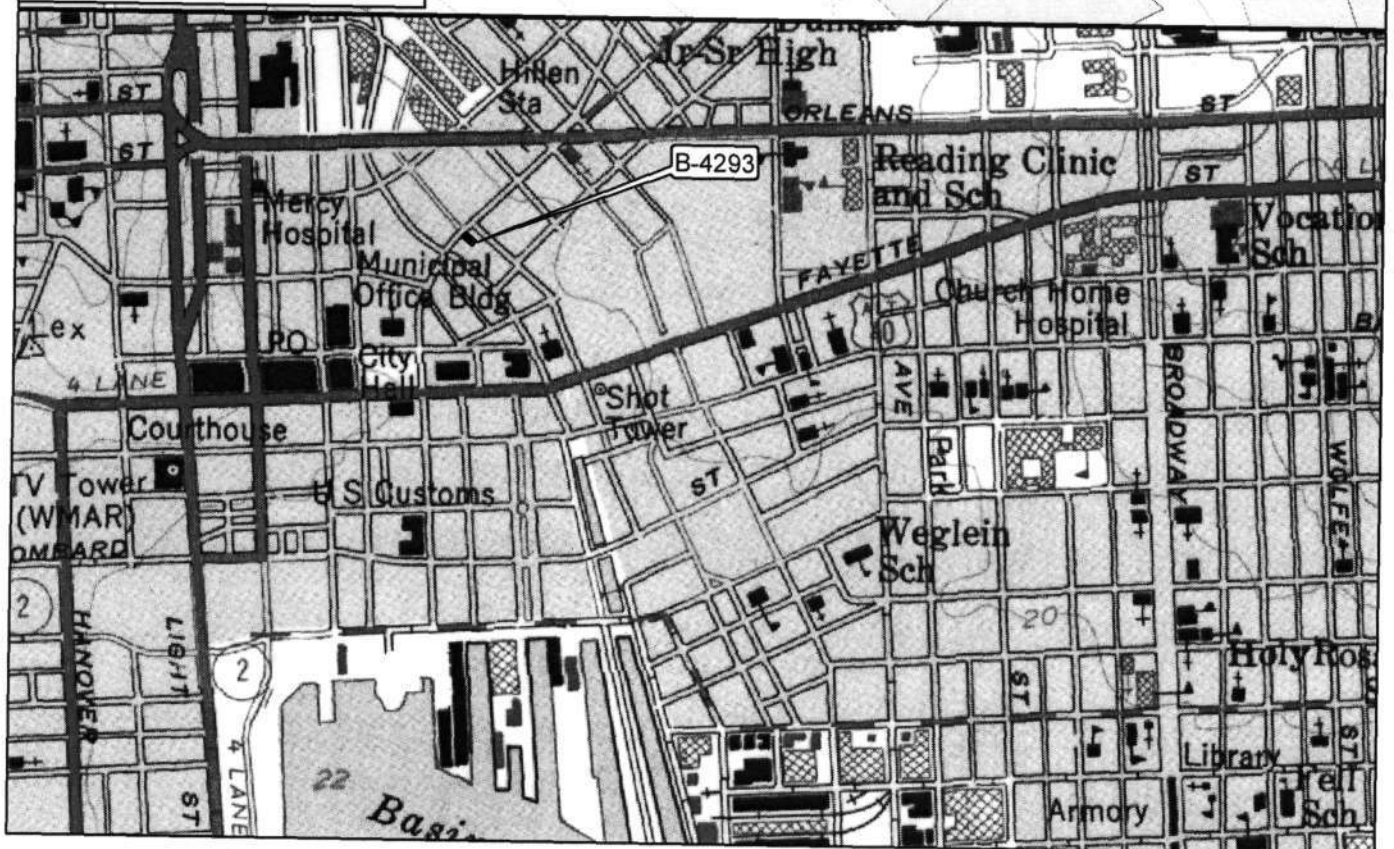
NE elevations detail

2/2

B-4293
Spartana Electronics
239 N. Gay Street
Block 1306C, Lot 020
Baltimore City
Baltimore East Quad.



GIS data Courtesy of
the City of Baltimore, MOIT/EGIS





B-4293

239

~~233-255~~ N. GAY ST.

BALTIMORE CITY MD

AARON M. LEVIN 1987

NEG AT 3000 CHESTNUT AVE #102

BALTO MD 21211

FROM NE

1 OF 3

BALTIMORE HERITAGE
Bldg Name SPARTANA ELECTRONICS
Loc ~~233-255~~ N. GAY ST.
BALTIMORE, MD
© Aaron M. Levin 1987 # 87-314-1
Date 3/87
Neg at: 3000 Chestnut Ave. #102
Baltimore, MD 21211
From ENE # 1 of 3



B-4293

239 ~~233-235~~ N. GAY ST.

BALTIMORE CITY MD

AARON M LEVIN 1987

NEG AT 3000 CHESTNUT AVE #102

BALTO MD 21211

FROM N

2 OF 3

BALTIMORE HERITAGE

Bldg Name SPARTANA ELECTRONICS

Loc ~~233-235 N. GAY ST.~~

BALTIMORE, MD

© Aaron M. Levin 1987 # 87-314-2

Date 3/87

Neg at: 3000 Chestnut Ave. #102

Baltimore, MD 21211

From N # 2 of 3



B-4293

239 ~~233-235~~ N. GAY ST.

BALTIMORE CITY MD

AARON M LEVIN 1987

NEG AT 3000 CHESTNUT AVE #102

BALTO MD 21211

FROM SE

3 OF 3

BALTIMORE HERITAGE
Bldg Name SPARTANA ELECTRONICS
Loc ~~233-235~~ N. GAY ST.
BALTIMORE, MD
© Aaron M. Levin 1987 # 87-314-3
Date 3/87
Neg at: 3000 Chestnut Ave. #102
Baltimore, MD 21211
From SE # 3 of 3